

REMARKS

The instant patent application is in the national phase of the international application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (International Application No. PCT/US04/10710). A Written Opinion dated 29 April 2005 issued in the international application containing an objection to Figure 8A and a rejection of claims 1 and 2 as lacking antecedent basis. A response to the Written Opinion correcting claims 1 and 2 and submitting a replacement Fig. 7 was submitted on 20 July 2005. The Response together with the claim amendments and replacement Fig. 7 was accepted by the International Preliminary Examining Authority. A positive International Preliminary Report on Patentability was mailed on 21 November 2005. Copies of the Response to Written Opinion and Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Report on Patentability are submitted herewith for the examiner's consideration.

Since the objection to the drawing raised by the USPTO in the Office action was addressed during the international stage by submission of replacement Fig. 7 showing "A", it is not believed that yet another replacement sheet for Fig. 7 should be necessary for filing in response to the Office action.

Additionally, an invitation to correct defects in the counterpart PCT application issued by the Examining Authority of the PCT on June 9, 2004, was responded to by submitting a replacement Abstract page showing a correction to the title to conform to the title on page 1 of the specification. The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge entry of the replacement Abstract page in the instant US national stage patent application.

Applicant has corrected the inadvertent antecedent basis rejection newly raised in the USPTO action against claims 1, 2, and 13. In regard to the antecedent basis rejection against the word "sphere" (referring to the word "hemisphere") in claim 13, consequential amendments have been made to claims 17 and 18.

For the sake of completeness, the amendment to claims 1 and 2 also include correction of the inadvertent antecedent basis errors which were already corrected in the July 20, 2005 Response to the Written Opinion.

Applicant acknowledges with gratitude that claims were indicated in the Office action as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections. In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-referenced application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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